

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-20 are the claims that have been examined in the instant application. The drawings are objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Claims 1-20 are objected to because of informalities. The specification is objected to for informalities. Claims 1-2, 5 and 7-20, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hattori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,290,509). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hattori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,290,509). Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hattori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,290,509) in view of Onizuka (U.S. Patent No. 6,390,830).

The indicated allowability of claims 4, 10, 12-13 has been withdrawn in view of the newly cited references, U.S. Patent No. 6,290,509 and 6,390,830.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the wiring member, which holds both of the first electric wires and second electric wires, recited in claims 1 and 4, is not shown in the drawings.

Applicants submit that the Examiner's objection to the drawings is unsubstantiated. FIG. 1 shows a generally rectangular wiring member 38 that holds the first wires 6₁ in a first direction and the second wires 6₂ in the second direction. The wiring member 38 is an exemplary embodiment of the wiring member recited in claims 1 and 4. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-20 are objected to for informalities. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that claim 1, lines 7-8, “a wiring member, which holds both of the first electric wires and the second electric wires”, is confusing and unclear in light of the specification because this feature is not shown on the drawings. The Examiner alleges that claim 4 suffers the same informality.

As noted with respect to the objection to the drawings, Applicants respectfully submit that the wiring member 38 shown in FIG. 1 of the application is an exemplary embodiment of the wiring member recited in claims 1 and 4. Applicants thus respectfully request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

Specification

The Examiner objects to the disclosure because the newly added claims 17-20 allegedly are not adequately supported by the original specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter recited in claims 17-20 is adequately supported by the specification and drawings. FIG. 1, element 30 shows, in an exemplary embodiment, that the wiring member is rectangular, and includes a plurality of grooves at each of the four edge portions of the rectangular plate body. Further, the four edge portions are arranged as two pairs, which retain the first wire group and second wire group, respectively, and are parallel to the second direction and first direction, respectively.

Thus, because the FIG. 1 shows the elements recited in claims 17-20, the specification adequately supports the subject matter of claims 17-20.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 5 and 7-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hattori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,290,509).

The Examiner alleges that Hattori reads on all of the elements of claim 1 of the instant application. Specifically, the Examiner identifies elements 20a-20g as disclosing a plurality of first electric wires, elements 22a-22o as disclosing a plurality of second electric wires, element 21 as disclosing a first insulative sheet, and element 30 as disclosing a wiring member.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hattori fails to anticipate claim 1 because Hattori fails to disclose at least a first insulative sheet as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 recites, in part, “a first insulative sheet, disposed between the first wire group and the second wire group.” Hattori discloses electrically conductive elements which may be adhered to, or coated with an insulative film. See col. 7, lines 31-32. However, as noted in col. 7, lines 32-34, the area between the bus bars has the insulation cut away from the intersection. As seen in FIG. 7, the insulating film sits atop the bus bar 20d, but it is not underneath bus bars 22b and 22l, and thus is not *between* the first wire group and the second wire group, as recited in claim 1. Thus, Hattori fails to disclose all of the elements of claim 1, and claim 1 is patentable over the applied art.

Claims 2, 5 and 7-11, and 14-20 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Claim 17 is patentable for reasons in addition to its dependency from claim 1. Claim 17 recites “wherein the wiring member is a rectangular plate body which includes wire fixing portions at each of four side edge portions of the rectangular plate body, said wire fixing portions each including a plurality of grooves.” Hattori discloses an upper case and lower case, between which the bus bars are disposed. However, Hattori only discloses grooves on two of the sides, not all four, as recited in claim 17. Thus, Hattori cannot anticipate claim 17 and claim 17 is patentable over the applied art.

Claims 12 and 13 are dependent from claim 4. Thus, because claim 4 is not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hattori, claims 12 and 13 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hattori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,290,509).

Claim 6 depends from claim 1. Because Hattori fails to disclose all of the elements of claim 1, claim 6 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1.

Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hattori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,290,509) in view of Onizuka (U.S. Patent No. 6,390,830).

The Examiner alleges that a combination of Hattori, applied in a similar manner to claim 1, and the insulative sheet disclosed in Onizuka discloses all of the elements of claims 3 and 4. Because the Examiner applies Hattori against claim 4 in the same manner as claim 1, Applicants

initially submit that claim 4 should be patentable over the Examiner's proposed combination because Hattori fails to disclose the first insulative sheet as alleged by the Examiner for reasons analogous to those presented with respect to claim 1.

Further, Applicants submit that there is no motivation to combine the references. As noted above, Hattori uses an insulative layer, but does not dispose the insulative layer between the first and second wire groups. Onizuka discloses an insulative sheet which is placed in a similar location with a presumably similar function. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Hattori with the insulative layer from Onizuka, because the insulative layer in Onizuka does not cure a deficiency in Hattori.

Additionally, Applicants submit that the Examiner's proposed combination fails to render claims 3 and 4 obvious because the proposed combination fails to disclose a second insulative sheet, disposed between the wiring member and the second wire group.

The Examiner alleges that element 15 described in Onizuka discloses the second insulative sheet recited in claims 3 and 4. However, the insulative sheet 15 is located between the first vertical bus bars 17A-17E and the horizontal bus bars 16A-16D, not between *a wiring member and the second wire group*, as recited in claims 3 and 4. In fact, none of FIGS. 2A, 2B, 2C and 5, which show cross-sections of the bus bar groups and insulative plate in Onizuka, show a second insulative material on either side of the bus bar groups. Thus, because the proposed combination of Hattori and the insulative sheet of Onizuka fail to disclose all of the elements of claims 3 and 4, claims 3 and 4 are patentable over the applied art.

Claims 12 and 13 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 4.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

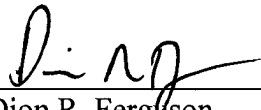
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